recover the outstanding amounts. The IFCs are supposed to provide a speedy and simple redressal and recovery process.

(d) and (e) The IFCs have been set up in twelve States/UTs so far. Other States/UTs have also initiated the process. They have been requested to expedite the matter. It is too early to assess the impact of the IFCs.

Production of Foodgrains

†*16. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAJMOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of production of wheat, paddy, cotton, sugarcane, oilseed and pulses in the country is less than that of the foodgrains exporter countries like USA, Australia, Brazil, Canada etc;

(b) if so, what has been the average rate of production of the above foodgrains in India and in the said countries during last five years;

(c) whether Government have entrusted the responsibility of increasing the rate of production of foodgrains in the country to the agricultural scientists; and

(d) if so, by when the rate of production of foodgrains is likely to be at par with the above countries?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The yield rates of paddy, cotton, sugarcane, oilseeds and pulses in India are generally lower than those in countries like the USA, Australia and Canada. For wheat, the yield rates in India, though for some years lower than those in the USA, are better than those in Canada, Australia and Brazil. The crop-wise yield rates in India *vis-a-vis* other countries

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for the period 1993 to 1997 are given in the annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 1]

(c) and (d) The scientists of ICAR (Indian Council of Agriculture Research) system including Agriculture Universities are continuously working to develop improved technologies so as to enhance the productivity of foodgrains in the country. However, raising productivity is a continuous effort and it is not possible to set any time limit to raise productivity levels of agricultural crops in India to the levels obtaining in developed countries of the world because actual realisation of potential productivity is largely dependent on agro-climatic factors, farm size, timely use of high quality inputs, besides development and adoption of package of improved practices. It may also be added that to increase production and productivity of agriculture crops, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/ Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System area, National Pulses Development Project, Intensive Cotton Development Programme and Sustainable Development of Sugracane Based Cropping System. Under these programmes/projects, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstration on farmers' holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology.

Recruitment of Employees under Reserved Category

*17. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer